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From: Element K tips [tips@offers.elementkjournals.com]
Sent: March 29, 2004 5:06 PM
To: akagan@emphatec.com
Subject: IME Tip: Change the default colors Excel assigns to chart points (97/2000/2001/2002)

Dear Microsoft Excel Tips subscriber,

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***** THE TIP *****

Change the default colors Excel assigns to chart points (97/2000/2001/2002)

You're probably so used to the standard colors Excel assigns to
chart lines and data points that you've never thought about
changing them. For example, when creating a column chart that
contains multiple data series, the first data series is always
colored a purplish-blue shade by default. The next series is a
magenta color, the next is pale yellow, and so on, for up to
eight series. You may prefer that the default colors are tailored
to an overall design scheme or you may simply want a change.

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Fortunately, it's easy to change the default colors Excel uses to fill chart items and lines.

To assign your own colors, choose Tools | Options from the menu bar while the workbook that will contain your charts is open. Then, click on the Colors tab. The sample squares next to the Chart Fills and Chart Lines labels indicate the colors that Excel sequentially assigns to chart items. To change a particular color, select the appropriate square in the Chart Fills or Chart Lines sequence. Then, click the Modify button. Pick one of the standard colors from the color wheel or click on the Custom tab to create a new color. Finally, click OK. If you ever want to restore Excel's defaults, click the Reset button to restore all of the color items to their original settings. Finally, click OK to save the color modifications.

Any color setting changes you make will apply only to the current Workbook. Also, changing the settings will update any existing charts in the workbook that depend on the default settings to use the new colors.

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